

of adventure, displaying a great attitude at all times, as well as an excellent sense of humor.

Ben's wife, Natalie, and his daughter, Taylor, are very proud of him as we honor him today.

Ben and Isaac's co-workers have nothing but praise for them, describing them as "dedicated," "great workers," "you couldn't find nicer people," "they do an excellent job." Their supervisors are equally laudatory, noting their deep commitment to help other people. It is not surprising that they would go out of their way to help someone when they are off duty.

Mr. Speaker, our fire fighters put themselves in harm's way, time and time again. They are the line of defense that keeps our communities safe. As a husband, father, and grandparent, I am proud to entrust the safety of my loved ones to such fine individuals. The heroism displayed in Bahia de Los Angeles is the highest example of a calling that exists twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A firefighter's work is never done, and even off duty, or on vacation, we can rely on these brave individuals to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, many fire fighters toil anonymously, in a quiet and heroic manner. Their loved ones are faced with the prospect of a knock on the door, cap in hand, as they are informed that their spouse, brother, sister, son or daughter has made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting the public. Our firefighters jump into burning buildings, brave smoke and falling debris, make daring rescues, and save children. In honoring Ben, we honor all of his co-workers, the entire San Bernardino city fire department, indeed all firefighters. There are many other firefighters and public safety personnel who also labor day in and day out, putting themselves in harm's way. So in giving this honor, we are honoring them all.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we salute Ben Alexander, and those like him, who serve the public and keep our communities safe.

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#### HONORING SCOTT PRESTIDGE

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both honor and thank Scott Prestidge. I first met Scott when he came to one of my town hall meetings. He approached a member of my staff with a resume and within a few weeks was working in my district office.

Scott graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in Political Science. He has been a caseworker in my Colorado office dealing primarily with the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and the Small Business Administration. He has demonstrated exceptional professionalism

and knowledge in dealing with business, technology and veterans issues. His patience, understanding, and sense of humor have made him a great asset to my staff.

One of Scott's most meaningful accomplishments was helping me to obtain World War II medals for a woman whose husband died in the war. Her son had never met his father and was overjoyed at finally receiving the medals for his father's bravery and courage.

This is just one of the many examples of the excellent constituent services Scott has helped me provide to the people in my district. He has been invaluable in communicating with Spanish-speaking constituents and is always compassionate and understanding to those in need.

Scott is moving to Boston, Massachusetts to be with his wife, Abbey, while she attends graduate school. I wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MY GRANDDAD

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, since I was a young boy, chasing more chickens than girls, I watched my granddad Wilferd and my dad, Samuel Graves Sr., account for loose parts on tractors, missing pieces on planters, and nearly anything else that needed fixing with a good, straight piece of baling wire. Every year, we would go down to Tarkio Pelleting, the local feed store, and buy a new bundle of baling wire. We all called it Number 9 wire, but it really wasn't. Number 9 is much heavier and doesn't bend so easily. As I got older, it didn't take long until I was using the baling wire on things of my own. The barn door to my show heifer, the fender on my first bicycle, and half my G.I. Joe Collection needed some mending of one sort or another. As a young man, I didn't think a thing about it. When I needed it, I used it.

Today when I walk around the farm, I still think of Granddad. His 1968 John Deere 4020 that he bought brand new still has baling wire holding the air cleaner on. Every where you look, baling wire holds something together on the old home place—the 1983 John Deere 6630 Sidehill Combine and even the new (well, relatively new) John Deere 7200 vacuum planter has its fair share of the trusty ol' wire keeping it together.

In life, only friendship can hold things together like a bundle of baling wire. As I think back on my good days, my bad days, the days when I was a proud father, and the days when I was a grandson mourning the loss of my granddad, there was always a friend there to comfort and share their concerns with me.

Just like climbing onto the old 4020, I often have taken for granted that the baling wire will hold or that my friends will be there for me. I want to thank my friend, Scott Eckard, for being there for me when I needed him; and I want him to know that I am with him now—for whatever he needs from me. Granddad always told me that baling wire would even hold back time, if we could just catch it. My friend, I am not sure that we can ever hold onto time, but I am ever grateful that we have held onto our friendship.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 298 and 299, I was detained at a meeting called by the administration at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each vote.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on Tuesday, July 31, 2001, the record would reflect that I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 297, H.R. 2620, Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations for 2002, "yea".

On rollcall No. 298, H.R. 2647, Legislative Branch Appropriations for FY 2002, "yea".

On rollcall No. 299, on approving the Journal, "yea".

On rollcall No. 300, H. Res. 214, on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 2505; Human Cloning Prohibition Act, "nay".

On rollcall No. 301, H.R. 2540, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, Veterans Benefits Act, "yea".

On rollcall No. 302, H.R. 2505, on agreeing to the amendment, Greenwood of Pennsylvania substitute amendment, "yea".

On rollcall No. 303, H.R. 2505, on motion to recommit with instructions, Human Cloning Prohibition Act, "yea".

On rollcall No. 304, H.R. 2505, on passage, Human Cloning Prohibition Act, "nay".

On rollcall No. 305, H.R. 1140, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, amended, Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act, "yea".